THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (g) The Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House to the extent available.

Tax Exemption to Manufacturers of Kutch Region

258. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Prime Minister, during his recent visit to quake-ravaged Gujarat had announced 5 year excise and sales tax exemption to manufacturers in the Kutch region;

(b) whether this decision had been taken to favour only one manufacturer, namely the New Cement Plant of Sanghi Cement which is coming up in Kutch;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government had received any protest from the Cement Manufacturers Association in this regard; and

(e) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) No Sir. The exemption is likely to cover several excisable goods.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

(d) Yes Sir.

(e) The coverage, conditions and modalities for the five year tax holiday from excise duty for the industrial units in the Kutch district of Gujarat are currently under examination.